



# South Carolina

## Forest Health Highlights 2008



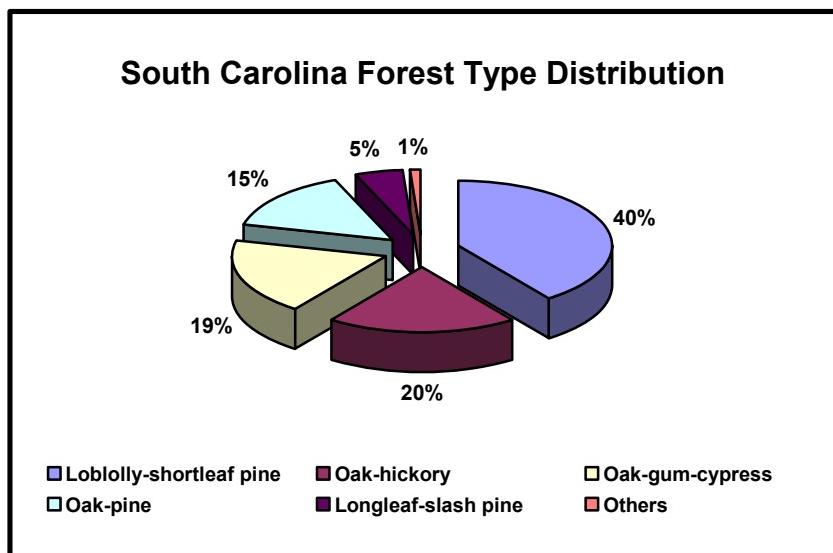
### The Resource

South Carolina's forests cover 12.9 million acres, more than 67% of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.4 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 613,000 acres are in national forests.



 **Forestry** is the most important manufacturing industry in South Carolina, providing 44,708 jobs and the total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is \$17.45 billion annually. South Carolina's forests are also prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the upstate to the lowcountry of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

 Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress. Longleaf and slash pine forests, historically much more wide-ranging, now comprise 4% of the state's forests, while other minor types account for an additional 6%.



## Forest Issues and Influences

 Southern pine beetle (SPB) is South Carolina's most significant forest insect pest. In 2008, SPB activity continued, although at low levels. Several large SPB spots were detected in the Francis Marion National Forest (Charleston and Berkeley Counties). Several smaller spots (940) were reported statewide.

 Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* sp.) displayed continued moderate activity in 2008. Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may approach those caused by SPB.

 Hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) was first detected in Oconee County in 2001. It has since spread in the upstate, infesting both of the native hemlock species. Current suppression activities involve a cooperative effort to rear and release predators in hope of achieving biological control of the adelgid, but the prognosis for hemlocks is not good. Except on individual trees in landscape settings, chemical control of HWA is not practical, and major losses of these ecologically valuable trees are probable within a few years.

 *Anomosum* root rot affected an estimated 7,170 acres of timber in 31 South Carolina counties in 2008. Losses from this disease continue to be significant.

 Sudden Oak Death surveys were continued in 2008. The surveys focused stream baiting near horticultural nurseries that had received potentially infected stock from shippers in California and Oregon, but also general forest areas considered to be at high risk.

 Redbay mortality (Laurel Wilt Disease) is caused by a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) which is vectored by the exotic Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). Laurel Wilt was first reported in 2004 in Beaufort County and has continued to spread in coastal South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Currently, eight SC counties have some degree of Laurel Wilt. Effects on redbay, other potential host species, and plant communities are being studied.



 Cogongrass has been found in nine SC Counties (Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Greenville, Hampton, Pickens, and Williamsburg) for a total of 10 acres. All detected locations of Cogongrass have been treated. Ground surveys will continue in 2009 to locate new Cogongrass locations.



Drought continued to affect both pines and hardwoods in 2008. Number reports of dying and dead red oaks were investigated; it was determined that these trees were stressed due to droughty conditions and succumbed to *Hypoxyylon* canker. This was most prevalent in the Piedmont counties. Pine trees exhibited early needle shedding during the height of the summer drought.

## Forest Health Assistance in South Carolina

For further information or assistance, contact:

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